

GABLEHOUSE & EPEL, LLC

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December 7, 1999

Wayne Webster  
P.O. Box 592  
Athens, Texas 75751

**Re: *United States, et al. v. RICO Development Corporation, et al., No. 99-1386***

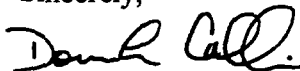
Dear Wayne:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Complaint in the above-referenced case. In order for us to adequately respond to this complaint, we need some information from you regarding the accuracy of some of the allegations. I have circled the paragraph numbers on your copy of the complaint for which we need additional information. Basically, we need to know if the information contained in the circled paragraphs is accurate and, if not, what an accurate statement would be.

As an example, in paragraph 27, the United States alleges that RICO Development sold its holdings to Rico Properties with an agreement that no "portions of the Mine presenting environmental liabilities" would be part of the deal. Is this an accurate statement of the negotiations between the parties? If not, what was negotiated between the parties, if anything, about environmental liabilities.

You may make remarks and corrections on the complaint itself and mail or, preferably, fax it back to me. Please turn your attention to this matter at your earliest convenience. We must answer or otherwise respond to this Complaint by December 23, 1999 and will need some time to assimilate your answers.

Sincerely,

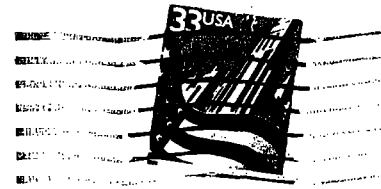


Donn L. Calkins  
for Gablehouse & Epel, LLC

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